

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	Eric L. Barsness	:	Date: November 24, 2003
Group Art Unit:	Unassigned	:	IBM Corporation
Examiner:	Unassigned	:	Intellectual Property Law
Serial No.:	Unassigned	:	Dept. 917, Bldg. 006-1
Filed:	Herewith	:	3605 Highway 52 North
Title:	METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING INSTANT MESSAGING	:	Rochester, MN 55901

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants request that the information listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be considered by the Office during the pendency of the above entitled application, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not constitute an admission that any information cited therein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b). In the interest of full and complete disclosure to the Office, some or all of the art cited herein may not be considered by Applicant(s) or the Undersigned to be material under the new standard of materiality defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b), enacted March 16, 1992, but may be material under the old standard of materiality defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a), last amended on November 28, 1988, or may merely be technical background which may be of interest to the Examiner. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a

Serial No. (Unassigned)  
Docket No. ROC919990144US2

search has been made.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1) within three months of the filing date of the present application. Accordingly no filing fee is required.

The references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in prior application serial no. 09/482,452, filed on January 13, 2000. The prior application is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120, and thus a copy of these references is not required to be provided under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d).

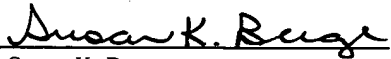
Date: November 24, 2003

**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

Express Mail Label No.: EU163621370US

Date: November 24, 2003


I hereby certify that I am depositing the enclosed or attached paper with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service on the above date, addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Susan K. Berge

Respectfully submitted,

ERIC L. BARSNESS

By

  
Steven W. Roth  
Attorney Reg. No. 34,712

(507) 253-1600

Serial No. (Unassigned)  
Docket No. ROC919990144US2

PTO/SB/08A

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**Sheet 1 of 2

Application Number.: Unassigned  
 Filing Date: Herewith  
 First Named Inventor: Eric L. Barsness  
 Art Unit: Unassigned  
 Examiner Name: Unassigned  
 Attorney Docket Number.: ROC919990144US2

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns or Lines Where Relevant Passages or Figs. Appear
		US - 6,380,959	04-30-2002	Wang, et al.	
		US - 6,369,840	04-09-2002	Barnett, et al.	
		US - 6,359,557	03-19-2002	Bilder	
		US - 6,347,339	02-12-2002	Morris et al.	
		US - 6,094,681	07-25-2000	Shaffer, et al.	
		US - 6,009,455	12-28-1999	Doyle	
		US - 5,842,009	11-24-1998	Borovoy, et al.	
		US -			
		US -			
		US -			
		US -			
		US -			
		US -			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Country <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns or Lines Where Relevant Passages or Figs. Appear	T <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).

<sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

PTO/SB/08A

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**Sheet 2 of 2

Application Number.: Unassigned  
 Filing Date: Herewith  
 First Named Inventor: Eric L. Barsness  
 Art Unit: Unassigned  
 Examiner Name: Unassigned  
 Attorney Docket Number.: ROC919990144US2

**OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
		Bergvik et al., "User Experiences of a Work Group Awareness Information Provided By a Buddy List Application", 8/3/99, ISBN 82-423-0492-0	
		ICQ Inc., "A Guided Tour to ICQ", published on the World Wide Web at <a href="http://www.icq.com/icqtour">http://www.icq.com/icqtour</a> , date of publication unknown. (Selected pages printed 1/3/00)	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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